

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring [(9)];

an external conical ring [(8)];

semi-through side slots [(8D)] spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring [(8)]; and

a flange having a rigid housing [(7)] with a cylindrical axial passage [(7A)] coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring [(9)] and said external conical ring [(8)],

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft [(2)], and to define an annular space [(10)] between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage [(7A)] and an outer surface of said external conical ring [(8)],

said annular space [(10)] making it possible to engage an end [(2A)] of said hollow shaft [(2)],

said external conical ring [(8)] being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end [(2A)] of said hollow shaft [(2)] in said annular space [(10)] during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring [(9)] and said external conical ring [(8)],

wherein, said external conical ring has an annular external shoulder forming at a bottom of said annular space and against which is applied to abut a transversal face of said end of said shaft.

2. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein, the semi-through side slots [(8D)] terminate alternatively in a first end [(8E)] and a second end [(8F)] of transversal faces of said external conical ring [(8)].

3. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, characterized in that it also includes a rotating link [(14)] between said rigid housing [(7)] and said internal conical ring [(9)].

4. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring [(9)];

an external conical ring [(8)];

semi-through side slots  $[(8D)]$  spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring  $[(8)]$ ;

a flange having a rigid housing  $[(7)]$  with a cylindrical axial passage  $[(7A)]$  coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring  $[(9)]$  and said external conical ring  $[(8)]$ ,

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft  $[(2)]$ , and to define an annular space  $[(10)]$  between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage  $[(7A)]$  and an outer surface of said external conical ring  $[(8)]$ ,

said annular space  $[(10)]$  making it possible to engage an end  $[(2A)]$  of said hollow shaft  $[(2)]$ ,

said external conical ring  $[(8)]$  being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end  $[(2A)]$  of said hollow shaft  $[(2)]$  in said annular space  $[(10)]$  during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring  $[(9)]$  and said external conical ring  $[(8)]$ ; and

a rotating link  $[(14)]$  between said rigid housing  $[(7)]$  and said internal conical ring  $[(9)]$ ,

wherein, said rotating link  $[(14)]$  is made of cooperating teeth ~~(9C, 7F)~~ arranged respectively on an outer perimeter of said internal conical ring  $[(9)]$  and on an

inner perimeter of said cylindrical axial passage of said rigid housing [(7)].

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, said annular space [(10)] is closed on one end and open on another end, and extends over the entire length of said external conical ring [(8)].

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, said cylindrical axial passage [(7A)] of said housing [(7)] terminates by an internal annular shoulder [(7D)] against which said external annular ring bears.

9. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, an inside conical surface [(8C)] and an outside conical surface [(9A)], respectively of said external conical ring [(8)] and said internal conical ring [(9)] are cone-shaped with an apex on the opposite end to said shaft.

10. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring [(9)];

an external conical ring [(8)];

semi-through side slots [(8D)] spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring [(8)]; and

a flange having a rigid housing [(7)] with a cylindrical axial passage [(7A)] coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring [(9)] and said external conical ring [(8)],

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft [(2)], and to define an annular space [(10)] between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage [(7A)] and an outer surface of said external conical ring [(8)],

said annular space [(10)] making it possible to engage an end [(2A)] of said hollow shaft [(2)],

said external conical ring [(8)] being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end [(2A)] of said hollow shaft [(2)] in said annular space [(10)] during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring [(9)] and said external conical ring [(8)],

wherein, said internal conical ring [(9)] extends on the end opposite to said shaft in a threaded cylindrical part [(9C)] opening from said cylindrical axial passage [(7A)] of said rigid housing and includes a clamping device [(11)] screwed onto said threaded cylindrical part [(9C)] and is applied against said rigid housing [(7)] to pull said internal conical ring and cause a spreading apart of said external conical ring.

11. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, an inner surface [(9E)] of said internal conical ring flares linearly through to its transversal face [(9F)] turned towards said shaft so that a transversal section of said internal conical ring decreases gradually.

12. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 2, further comprising a rotating link [(14)] between said rigid housing [(7)] and said internal conical ring [(9)].